

ACTION FOR BOSTON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, INC.

George Bennett  
Executive Director

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5. NEIGHBORHOOD PROFILE: EAST BOSTON



ABCD Planning and Evaluation Dept.  
Robert M. Coard, Director

September, 1967



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then outlined under such headings as health, education, employment and economic development. On the basis of preferences expressed by representatives of the neighborhood community these needs are ranked in order of importance as are the groups to which the community feels programs should be addressed. Services in the neighborhood, both those provided through ABCD and by other agencies, are catalogued in categories roughly corresponding to the need categories, and those programs funded by OEO are briefly evaluated. Finally, the overall system of efforts to meet problems in the neighborhood is examined and recommendations for changes are presented.

The information included in this analysis is presented as much as possible in the form of hard statistics, identified by source and date. Where the information involved subjective judgments the person or group expressing the opinion is also identified. In cases in which special circumstances were present or where discrepancies of fact or opinion existed, explanatory comments are included. Graphic illustrations to clarify important facts and trends are now being prepared and will be inserted into the analysis at a later date.

The neighborhood analysis is meant to be used by a number of persons or groups for those purposes for which they feel it may be most helpful. Within the framework of the planning, programming and budgeting system being developed at ABCD, the analysis may serve three important functions. First, it is a basic document for neighborhood social planning, both on a comprehensive and on an individual project basis. Second, it will provide central ABCD staff with information essential to the design and funding of plans and programs which affect the neighborhood as a part of the broader city system. Third, it may help to provide a common language for discussion and cooperation between ABCD and Neighborhood Area Planning Action Councils (APACs) on the one hand, and outside agencies on the other. Using the neighborhood analysis as a starting point, all community agencies concerned with the problems of poverty may be encouraged to work out a joint planning process.



# ACTION FOR BOSTON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, INC.

## Planning and Evaluation Department

### INTRODUCTION TO NEIGHBORHOOD PROFILES

Among the most important units in Boston's War on Poverty are the city's low-income neighborhoods, all of which share certain common problems but each of which has a unique set of characteristics distinguishing it from the rest of the city. Just as the various neighborhoods differ in their physical appearance, so do their populations differ, in age, in race, and in a whole range of characteristics. Common to people of all the low-income neighborhoods are such problems as unemployment, low educational attainment and poor health. The relative importance of these problems varies, however, among the neighborhoods and reflects the different characteristics of their residents.

Not only do Boston's neighborhoods differ from one another in their social aspects but also in the amount and quality of resources which are now being used to meet the needs of their residents. While some neighborhoods receive relatively satisfactory services in certain problem areas, the services in these areas are clearly inadequate in other neighborhoods. In all the neighborhoods certain significant gaps between needs and resources are apparent and the coordination of various efforts to resolve the problems of the poor is weak and sporadic.

An essential step in developing effective strategies for lessening the incidence of poverty, on a neighborhood as well as on a city-wide basis, is collecting and analyzing information on the conditions contributing to and resulting from poverty and on the scope of current efforts to better these conditions. By examining needs and evaluating the impact of current services, it is possible to make rational recommendations for the re-allocation of existing resources and to justify requests for additional funds to ensure that services be provided with maximum effectiveness and more closely approximate the real need.

This neighborhood analysis is intended to provide such data on needs and resources in a form which makes it readily understood for general information purposes as well as providing the framework for an eventual neighborhood cooperative community planning, programming and budgeting process. It is designed so that it may be revised as necessary on the basis of suggestions from those who use it and so that it may be updated and refined annually as ABCD's computerized information system and eventual community data banks feed back improved data on yearly changes.

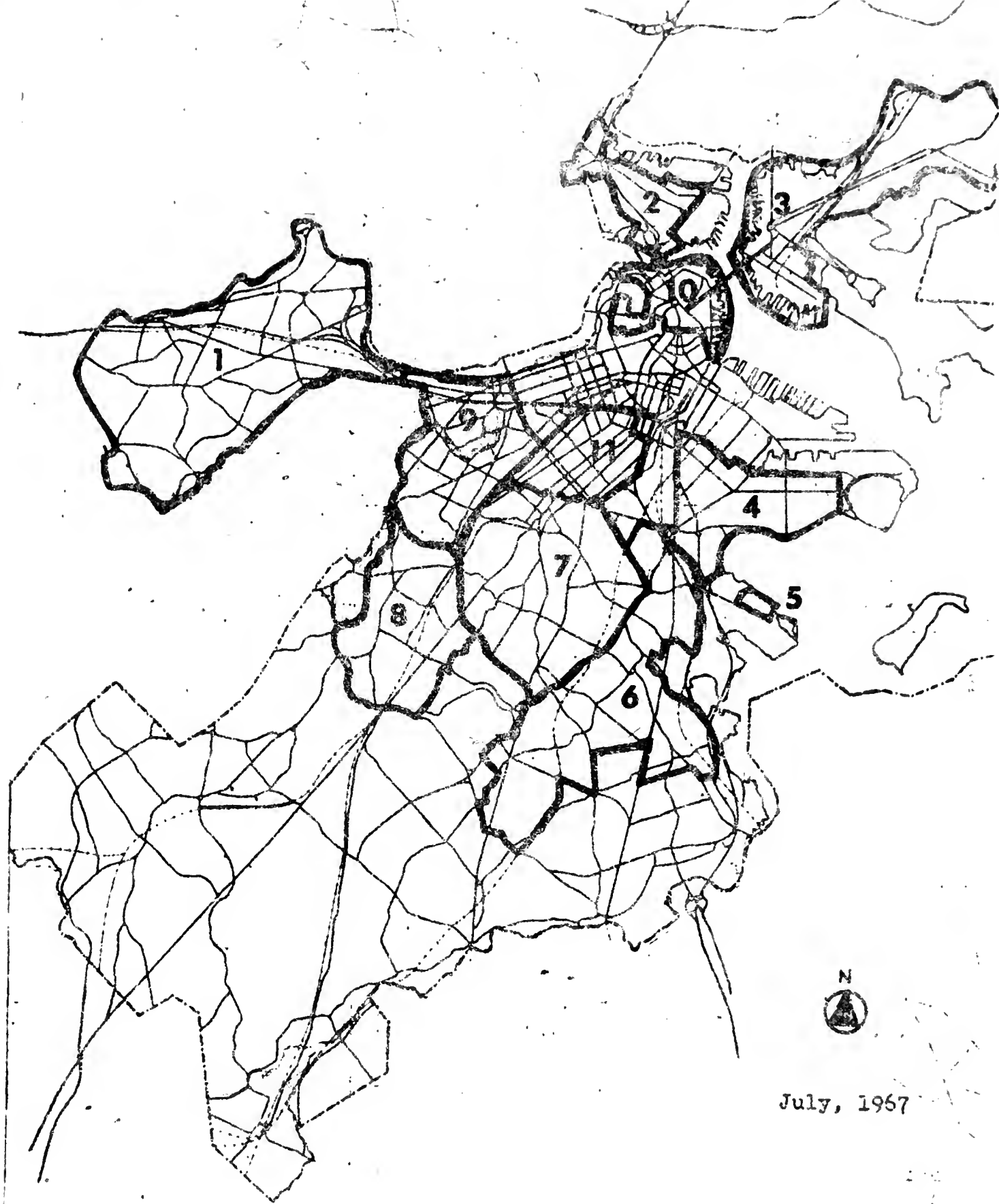
The analysis, which is divided into eight major sections for reference, begins with a discussion of the characteristics of the population of the neighborhood, including total numbers, income, age, sex and racial composition. The needs of the neighborhood's population are











**ABCD  
TARGET  
NEIGHBORHOODS**

- |                        |                               |                          |
|------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 Allston-<br>Brighton | 5 Columbia<br>Point           | 8 Jamaica Plain          |
| 2 Charlestown          | 6 Dorchester                  | 9 Parker Hill-<br>Fenway |
| 3 East Boston          | 7 Roxbury-North<br>Dorchester | 10 North End             |
| 4 South Boston         |                               | 11 South End             |



# NEIGHBORHOOD PROFILE

## EAST BOSTON

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NEIGHBORHOOD PROFILE  
EAST BOSTON

I. GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE POPULATION:

A. Total Population:

1. Number of Persons Living in Area: 30,800  
(1964 Figure from  
ABCD Poverty Indices)  
Target area in East Boston  
has been defined as that in  
which the Housing Project  
(Maverick Street Development)  
and its immediate surroundings  
is located.
2. Number of Families: 8,000
3. Number of Families in Public Housing 414 in Target Area  
716 in Entire Area  
(1966 figure from  
Boston Housing  
Authority.)  
There are two housing projects  
in the East Boston area:  
(a) the Maverick Street Develop-  
ment which is in the target area  
and houses 414 families and  
(b) the Orient Heights Develop-  
ment which is state aided and  
houses 352 families. Maverick  
Street Development is the only  
one with which this report will  
concern itself.
4. Number of Unrelated Individuals Not in Institutions: 1,563  
(1960 U.S.Census)

B. Income:

1. Median Family Income: (See written comment)  
Area Coordinator has given the  
following breakdown:  
\$3,000. - \$4,000 = 20%  
of Total Population  
UNDER 3,000. = 40%  
3,536. = 40%
2. Number of Families with Income Under \$3,000: 8,142.  
Percent of Total: 19.4%





Neighborhood Profile:  
East Boston

C. Age Composition:

The following figures were arrived at by using 1960 Census Tract data for the East Boston GNRP defined by the Boston Redevelopment Authority. These figures were compiled by the Planning Department and differ to some degree from figures obtained by Area Coordinator due to the fact that Area Coordinator did not use BRA figures and based her findings on a smaller area.

The figures for age composition breakdown and total population given here are based on Census Tracts A1, A2, A3, A4, A5, A6 (98%), B1, B2, B3, B4, B5a, B5b, with part of Tract A3 being used for Orient Heights (16%) and the rest East Boston (84%). The percentages given here are based on a total population of 43,749 for the entire East Boston area including Orient Heights and 31,728 not including Orient Heights.

PLEASE NOTE SEPARATE FIGURES THROUGHOUT SECTION C FOR EAST BOSTON--WITH AND WITHOUT ORIENT HEIGHTS.

	WITH ORIENT HEIGHTS	PERCENT OF TOTAL	WITHOUT ORIENT HEIGHTS	PERCENT OF TOTAL
1. <u>Number of Pre-school Children (0-5 Yrs.):</u>	5,427	12.4%	3,930	12.4%
2. <u>Number of School-age Children (6-15 Yrs.):</u>	7,360	16.8%	5,307	16.7%
3. <u>Number of In-School Youths (16-21 Yrs.):</u>	-	-	-	-
4. <u>Number of Out-of-school Youths (16-21 Yrs.):</u>	*3,866	*8.83%	*2,908	*9.16%
5. <u>Number of Adults (22-64 Yrs.):</u>	23,084	52.8%	16,572	52.2%
6. <u>Number of Elderly (65 Yrs. &amp; Over):</u>	4,381	10.01%	3,233	10.2%

\* Separate figures are not given for In-School and Out-of-School youths. These figures are totals for the areas of youths 16-21 years of age.



Neighborhood Profile:  
East Boston

The age composition breakdown totals obtained here are slightly higher than Census Tract totals; i.e., 44,118 as compared with 43,749 for total area including Orient Heights and 31,950 as compared with 31,728 for East Boston area not including Orient Heights. This minor error should be corrected at a later date.



Neighborhood Profile:  
East Boston

D. Sex Composition:

There are an equal number of pre-school males and females.

Breakdown not given for out-of-school youths (16-21 years).

There are 40% more males than females among out-of-school youths (16-21 years).

Males slightly outnumber females (55% against 45%) in the 65 and over category.

E. Racial Composition:

1. Number of Whites: (See written comment)

Area Coordinator states that there are a small number of Negro families in the Maverick Street housing project; but other than that, the East Boston population is white.

Percent of Total: 100%

2. Number of Negroes: 25 Families (Estimated)

Percent of Total: LESS THAN 1%

3. Number of Puerto Ricans: 30 Families (Estimated)

Percent of Total: LESS THAN 1%

4. Number of Other non-Whites: No record of other  
Racial Groups in the  
Area

Percent of Total: \_\_\_\_\_



Neighborhood Profile:  
East Boston

II. NEEDS OF THE POPULATION::

A. Community Organization:

Area Coordinator states that Community Organization in East Boston is "very much needed due to the particular problem faced by the APAC."

Project Director has listed the following problem areas, which can be attacked via mobilization and outreach programs:

1. Housing
2. Welfare
3. Health
4. Legal
5. Recreation

B. Child Development:

1. Number of Pre-school Children in low-income Families:

Area Coordinator comments that child development programs are needed, especially in the housing project area and Jeffries Point. As described in Section III B, due to the large number of single-headed households, a day care center and Headstart program are much needed in the area to provide the care and guidance needed for disadvantaged children and to free the many AFDC mothers in order that they can maintain part-time (and eventually it is hoped full-time) employment to supplement their welfare incomes.

1,000  
(Estimate  
of Area  
Coordinator)





Neighborhood Profile:  
East Boston

C. Education:

School-Age Children:

1. Number of School-Age Children needing Supplemental Tutoring, etc.: See Comment Below and Following Section

Area Coordinator reports that the NAC has the names of 80 students who have requested tutoring. However, she reports that some teachers in the area have estimated that about 45% of school children in East Boston, not including Orient Heights, (or 2,388 children) do not perform adequately. No figure available for Orient Heights.

2. Number of Children Below City-wide Grade Achievement Levels: 2,388 (Current Estimate)

Although no test scores are available, teachers in the area, as noted above, feel that about 45% of students are below achievement standards.

3. Current Dropout Rates:

144 students in East Boston dropped out of school in 1962-1963, according to the Boston School Department.

Adults:

1. Number of Adults Needing Supplemental Tutoring, etc. 6,179-- or 33.4%
2. Number of Adults who have not completed high school: 6,106-- or 33%



Neighborhood Profile:

East Boston

3. Number of Functional Illiterates: No Estimate Available

4. Number of Persons with Language Difficulties: See Comment Below

Area Coordinator comments that a majority of the elderly population speak Italian, but that since East Boston is in Italian-American community, she does not consider this a difficulty.

D. Employment:

Employed Persons:

1. Number of Employed in Low-Paying Occupations (unskilled blue-collar workers): See Comment Below

Area Coordinator did not give the above information, but made the comment that incomes in East Boston are among the lowest in the city.

Unemployed Persons:

1. Number of Unemployed Youths: See Comment Below

The only breakdown which Area Coordinator has given is 7.1% unemployed for 15 years and over age group.

2. Number of unemployed Adults: See Above Comment



Neighborhood Profile: - East Boston

E. Economic Development:

1. Number of low-income families with children

1,065

F. Health:

Children:

1. Rate of Infant Mortality: 26/1,000 or 17 Infant Deaths--1961

Area Coordinator reports that 22/1,000, or 13 Infant Deaths--1962 according to the 1965 proposal these rates are high and call for attention.

2. Number of Children with Specific Health Deficiencies:

No Information Available

Adults:

1. Tuberculosis Rates:

14 Cases (4.4%) with 3 Deaths (4.8%) in 1961;  
8 cases (2.7%) with 1 death (1.9%) in 1962

2. Incidence of Alcoholism:

East Boston had 4.6% of total drunkenness cases in the city of Boston

3. Drug Addiction:

Area Coordinator states that Drug Addiction is becoming an increasing and alarming problem among the TEENAGERS IN EAST BOSTON.

Note Comment



Neighborhood Profile:  
East Boston

Elderly:

1. Tuberculosis Rates:

No Information  
Available

G. Social Services:

Juveniles:

1. Rate of Delinquency:

See Comment

Area Coordinator states that there is "an extremely high rate for the area." She further reported that teenagers (unemployed and idle after-school youths) are to be found hanging around the streets taking narcotics, getting involved with sex in hallways, crime, etc.

Families:

1. Number of Chronic Welfare  
Recipients:

3,345

Area Coordinator gives the total number of Welfare Cases as 3,345. She reports that the East Boston Court House would not give her any further statistics.

2. Number of one-parent House-  
Holds:

See Comment

Area Coordinator reports that there are 727 families on AFDC. There may be other one-parent households not on AFDC.

H. Other Needs:





Neighborhood Profile:  
East Boston

III. LISTING AND RANKING OF TARGET GROUPS AND NEEDS:

A. Target Groups: (The following target groups have been ranked by the Area Coordinator)

1. Pre-School Children of Low-income Families:

This group is comprised mainly of children from single-headed households who are in need of a day care center and Headstart program.

2. Female Heads of Households:

There are 727 AFDC mothers in the East Boston area. Many of these women need help in finding part-time employment to supplement their welfare income, with the eventual hope that they will be able to hold full-time jobs. It is felt that a day care center for the children in the area, along with employment aid, would enable them to accomplish this.

3. Unemployed and Underemployed Youths (16-24):

According to East Boston's Employment Program Director, there are a large group of unemployed and underemployed persons in this age category who need job retraining, counselling, and placement. Teenagers in the area who are unemployed, according to the Area Coordinator, are becoming a problem and need employment in order to keep them off the streets.

4. Underemployed Adults (30 Years of Age and Over):

According to the Employment Program Director, many people in this age group are underemployed and need job upgrading via counselling, retraining, and placement. Included are a good number of persons 65 years of age and over who "are just making it financially" and need assistance finding and upgrading employment.



Neighborhood Profile:  
East Boston

5. Undereducated Children and Adults:

According to the Area Coordinator, there are many children and adults in the area in need of supplemental education. For pre-school children, a Headstart program has been recommended; for in-school youth, basic education tutoring; and for adults, their specific tutoring needs are in the area of basic education and consumer education.

6. The Elderly:

In addition to the employment problems of the elderly mentioned above, it is felt that these citizens need to be involved in recreational and volunteer programs. According to the Employment Program Director, there is a large exodus of people from East Boston between the age of 20-35, people who have acquired their education and take leave of the area. This leaves a large majority of the population in younger (16-24) and older (35 and over) age groups as far as employment problems are concerned.

B. Needs:

(The following ranked list was prepared by the Project Coordinator and Employment Program Director of the East Boston Neighborhood Action Center. As will be noted in the material on community mobilization and outreach, the Coordinator and Director gave a wide meaning to this need and included in it several program categories which might more accurately stand as separate functional needs. Further discussions on needs, treated in strictly functional terms, should be carried out with new Area Coordinator.)

1. Employment:

The main employment concerns in the East Boston area are those of unemployed and underemployed persons. The age groups to be most concerned with are those unemployed persons between the age of 16-24 and the unemployed and underemployed 35 and over. According to the Employment Program Director, many people in the area are "just making it" financially and need to be motivated and counselled about job upgrading. It is also felt that there are a large number of AFDC mothers in the area who need help in finding part-time employment in order to supplement their welfare income.



Neighborhood Profiles:  
East Boston

2. Education:

(a) Child Care and Education:

Specifically, it is felt that a day care center and Headstart program are very much needed for pre-school children in the East Boston area. Also, it is felt that general tutorial assistance for children in school is needed.

(b) Adult Education:

It is felt that adults in the area are in need of basic education and specifically education in the area of consumer needs.

3. Community Mobilization and Outreach:

It is felt that community mobilization and outreach are needed in East Boston, particularly in the following areas:

- (a) Housing: A need is felt to help people improve their living standards both in public housing and in low-income private housing. In private housing, not only physical rehabilitation is needed, but also help in improving tenant-landlord relations.
- (b) Welfare: Helping AFDC mothers work out welfare and employment problems.
- (c) Health: As described by the Employment Program Director, East Boston is an isolated area in need of its own medical facilities, as the area is not being adequately serviced by Boston facilities.
- (d) Legal Services:
- (e) Recreation: Programs needed for children for the elderly, and especially for a large number of teenagers who are found hanging around the streets.



Neighborhood Profile:  
East Boston

IV. INVENTORY OF 1966 PROGRAMS - COMPONENTS BY FUNCTIONAL CATEGORIES:

A. COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION:

Area Coordinator states there are no existing programs.

B. CHILD DEVELOPMENT:

See No. 1 Under "Recreation" - Day Care Facilities

C. EDUCATION:

See No. 1 Under "Recreation" - Educational Facilities

D. EMPLOYMENT:

1. Youth Opportunity Center:

(a) Brief Description:

Testing, counselling, and placement of applicants.  
Has been open since September 1, 1966.

(b) Sponsoring Agency: Division of Employment Security

(c) Funding Agency: Labor Department U.S. Government

(d) Total 1966 Funding: \* \_\_\_\_\_

(e) Number of Persons Served: 600 --- Approximately

(f) Number of Persons Eligible:

2. Job Training Development Program:

(a) Brief Description:

Counselling, Training and Placement.

(b) Sponsoring Agency: ABCD, Inc.

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\*DES was unwilling to give  
funding information





Neighborhood Profile:  
East Boston

(c) <u>Funding Agency:</u>	<u>OEO</u>
(d) <u>Total 1966 Funding:</u>	<u>\$9,140 for Personnel</u>
(e) <u>Number of Persons Served:</u>	<u>60 (In three months)</u>
(f) <u>Number of Persons Eligible:</u>	<u></u>

3. Summer Work Program:

(a) Brief Description:

Employment of 14 and 15 year olds in public agencies and service organizations in order to give them job experience. This was a program carried on for a temporary period during the previous summer and not a current on-going program.

(b) <u>Sponsoring Agency:</u>	<u>ABCD, INC.</u>
(c) <u>Funding Agency:</u>	<u>OEO</u>
(d) <u>Total 1966 Funding:</u>	<u>\$16,255</u>
(e) <u>Number of Persons Served:</u>	<u>45</u>
(f) <u>Number of Persons Eligible:</u>	<u></u>

E. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

Area Coordinator states that there are no existing programs.

F. HEALTH:

Area Coordinator states there are no existing programs.



Neighborhood Profile:  
East Boston

G. SOCIAL SERVICES:

Area Coordinator states there are no existing programs.

H. RECREATION:

1. East Boston Social Center:

(a) Brief Description:

Has two facilities operating:

- Central Square Social Center, at Central Square, and
- Trinity House, Meridian Street.

Has programs for all age groups, including limited day care, recreational, educational and social activities. Center open to entire area.

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| (b) <u>Sponsoring Agency:</u>          | <u>Hyams Funds</u>  |
| (c) <u>Funding Agency:</u>             | <u>Hyams Fund; United Community Dues from Members of Ctr.</u> |
| (d) <u>Total 1966 Funding:</u>         | _____   |
| (e) <u>Number of Persons Served:</u>   | _____   |
| (f) <u>Number of Persons Eligible:</u> | _____   |

2. Crash Summer Recreation Program:

(a) Brief Description:

A temporary program which provided for supervised recreation, sight-seeing bus trips, and some neighborhood youth corps programs in East Boston. Not a Current On-going Program.



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East Boston

- (b) Sponsoring Agency: ABCD
- (c) Funding Agency: OEO
- (d) Total 1966 Funding: \$1,840
- (e) Number of Persons Served: 275
- (f) Number of Persons Eligible: Youths 12-17

I. CULTURAL:

1. Symphony Program:

- (a) Brief Description:  
City-wide program which takes  
interested persons from the  
area to symphony programs.
- (b) Sponsoring Agency: ABCD
- (c) Funding Agency: OEO
- (d) Total 1966 Funding: \_\_\_\_\_
- (e) Number of Persons Served: 20
- (f) Number of Persons Eligible: \_\_\_\_\_



Neighborhood Profile:  
East Boston

V. EVALUATION OF 1966 PROGRAMS:

A.

1. Administrative Efficiency:
2. Direct Effect on Persons Served:
3. "Multiplier Effects":

Area Coordinator did not evaluate each program separately. However, she did make the following comments on the East Boston program as a whole:

"The only remark suitable, since East Boston has a \$126,000 budget and has done nothing with it, is to say that the poor of the community received no services, other than those from programs run by ABCD; i.e., Summer Work and Crash Recreation Programs, etc."

She goes on to say:

"Mr. Jagello, the Employment Program Director, though having been hindered, is working to get services into the community."





Neighborhood Profile:  
East Boston

VI. EVALUATION OF TOTAL PROGRAM SYSTEM:

A. Effective Linkage Between Programs:

Area Coordinator states that there is no linkage between programs, no Coordinator, and in essence, no program in East Boston.

B. Program System Emphasis:

Area Coordinator comments that there is "fairly correct emphasis, but no results."



Neighborhood Profile:  
East Boston



Vii. RECOMMENDATIONS:

Area Coordinator states:

"My previous recommendation was to run the entire program from here. However, with the changes which have been made, and if the problems concerning the APAC can be resolved, perhaps we can salvage the program and get the services into the community."

